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NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



July 2016

BeRailSafe Produces Training Video for NC Law Enforcement Officers

Each year North Carolina's law enforcement officers attend 40 hours of continuing education to maintain their law enforcement certification as mandated by the NC Justice Academy. For 2017, the Rail Division's BeRailSafe Program was selected to develop a rail safety training module to be included in the mandatory training. To maximize the impact of this message, BeRailSafe created a training video explaining the three most important rail safety topics for law enforcement: the Emergency Notification Sign (aka, the Blue Sign), the problems of trespassing on railroad tracks and best practices for officers when their duties require them to be near railroad tracks.

Over 25,000 law enforcement officers in North Carolina are expected to view the video in 2017. As a result, BeRailSafe hopes that future train-vehicle collisions and trespassing incidents can be reduced with law enforcement gaining a better understanding of how to avoid dangers when carrying out official duties near railroad tracks.

The training video is a collaboration between BeRailSafe (developing the screenplay and script as well as identifying filming locations) and NCDOT's Communications Office (shooting and video production). Shooting locations included Academy Street in Cary (near the Cary Amtrak Station) and Fuquay-Varina (near the Norfolk Southern office and Action Park).



A clip from the video shows a police officer calling the toll-free emergency number on the blue sign located at the crossing to report an incident. Each railroad crossing in North Carolina has a blue sign with this information.

BeRailSafe wishes to recognize the leadership and support of the Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Apex, Holly Springs and Cary police departments, as well as the Wake County Sheriff's Office and the NC State Highway Patrol for assigning officers, SWAT teams, equipment and K-9 participants. A special thank you to Norfolk Southern Special Agent Paul Sherwin for guidance, controlled rail access and safety oversight which made this project an outstanding success.

View the video at <https://youtu.be/9a9Yra-RdpQ>.

Piedmont Trains make Special Stop in Thomasville for NC's Largest Veteran's Day Parade



Governor Pat McCrory was Grand Marshal for the parade.



Passengers board the Piedmont for the return trip home.

NC By Train made a special stop in Thomasville for the 30th Annual Thomasville Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30, 2016. It has been approximately 48 years since a regular passenger train has stopped in Thomasville. The last passenger train stop was in 1968.

The special stop brought more than 100 passengers to the crossing of Randolph and Salem Streets. The day was filled with music, a parade and activities at Cushwa Stadium. Governor Pat McCrory served as grand marshal and Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest was in attendance as well.

There were numerous units representing all branches of the military and it was a beautiful day to remember those who sacrificed their lives for our country.

New signals and sign improve safety at Durham railroad bridge over Gregson Street

For decades, the railroad bridge over Gregson Street in Durham has been hit numerous times by trucks because their drivers did not realize that signs posted around the bridge warning of the 11'8" low clearance applied to them – and their too-tall truck. The bridge has earned the nickname “the can-opener” from locals and even earned national notoriety.

NCDOT traffic engineers recently designed and installed a new traffic signal and warning sign system. The system uses a laser beam aimed over the road to detect trucks that are too tall to pass under the bridge. When these too-tall trucks are detected, an overhead sign illuminates with the message “OVERHEIGHT - MUST TURN” and the traffic signal will revert to a red light. Hopefully while waiting for the signal to turn green light, the truck driver will realize they need to make a turn to avoid the bridge.



These safety improvements will protect the railroad bridge and disruptions to rail traffic when the bridge is hit by trucks as well as reduce the inconvenience to motorists from snarled traffic after tops of trucks have been peeled away leaving debris on the road.

Push/Pull Service begins on Piedmont Service

“Push/Pull” operations went into effect on Monday, May 9, 2016. This operational change is being made in order to accommodate the removal of the east leg of the RGH wye for one year while the Raleigh Union Station construction project is underway. NCDOT will have a F59 locomotive on each end of the 73/74 and 75/76 trainsets through the remainder of 2016.

In December 2016 NCDOT will receive its first two Cab Control Units (CCUs) which are currently under construction at NS's Altoona locomotive shop. Once the CCUs are placed into daily Piedmont service the 73/74 and 75/76 trainsets will have a F59 locomotive on one end and a CCU on the other end.

The Piedmont Push/Pull operation will continue after the Raleigh wye is restored due to the operational savings of not having to turn the Piedmont train sets in Raleigh or Charlotte.

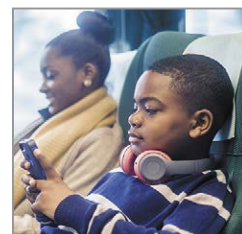


Student Discount

NC By Train and Amtrak is offering an everyday 15% discount to students ages 17 – 25. Students must provide valid ID and reservations must be made three days prior to planned travel. Please visit www.ncbytrain.org for more information. Some restrictions may apply.

Kids \$5 Discount

This summer, NC By Train is offering a one-way \$5 Kids Discount for up to two children ages 2 – 12 with the purchase of a regular priced ticket. This promotion is available now through Aug. 31, 2016, for travel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Visit www.ncbytrain.org for more information or to make reservations. Some restrictions may apply.



Upcoming Special Train Stops

North Carolina State Fair

Carolinian trains 80 and 79 will make special stops at the Blue Ridge Road grade crossing Oct. 14 - 23, 2016.

Lexington Barbeque Festival

Carolinian and Piedmont trains will also be stopping in Lexington on Oct. 22 for the annual Lexington BBQ Festival.

Ridership & Revenue on NC's Amtrak Service – *Apr. 2016 vs. 2015

	RIDERSHIP			REVENUE		
	2016	2015	% +/-	2016	2015	% +/-
Piedmont	12,052	13,534	-11%	\$245,397	\$268,304	-9%
Carolinian	22,858	26,666	-14%	\$1,379,516	\$1,690,622	-18%

783



Hours Volunteered by N.C. Train Hosts in March, supporting NC ByTrain onboard and at events.

April 2016 service modifications and annulments impacted four Piedmont trains. On Apr. 18, All Piedmont trains were annulled to accommodate PIP project track work; and on Apr. 25, Piedmont Trains 74 and 75 were annulled, also due to PIP project work. Additional disruptions for PIP project work will continue to occur as necessary through completion of the project. Average gasoline prices were \$0.32/gallon lower in Apr. 2016 than in Apr. 2015 (EIA Weekly Retail Gasoline for Lower Atlantic region).

NCDOT Funds Repairs to Collapsed Culvert on ATW

The Rail Division partnered with Atlantic and Western Railway, through Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Program, to fund rehabilitation of two structures on the railroad. Utilizing a portion of the \$88,000 grant, contractors for the ATW recently completed a replacement of an existing collapsed 30" pipe culvert just south of Wilkins Drive at US 421 Business in Sanford.



Due to erosion associated with the collapsing culvert, the existing roadbed was beginning to sag, creating potentially unsafe conditions for train traffic. Contractors were able to remove the 30" culvert and associated over-laying roadbed without removing the existing rail line. A new 48" corrugated steel pipe culvert was installed. This work was completed within one day which resulted in minimal disruption to rail traffic.



Crews make emergency repairs to get the 1810 back on track

In April, Locomotive 1810 had a support bearing burn up on the way to Charlotte. Fortunately the bearing failed as the train was pulling into the CLT station. Once transported back to Raleigh, NCDOT was able to replace the defective traction motor at Capital Rail Yard in just a few hours. NCDOT wants to applaud the hard work of all of those involved in this emergency repair.



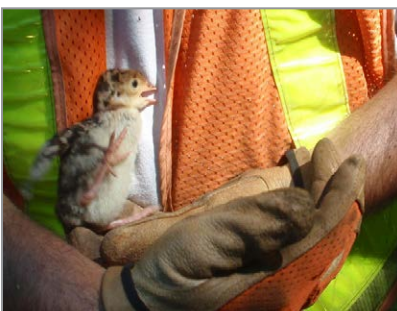
Rail Division Retirement



Cheryl (center) was presented a Golden Spike Award and The Old North State Award by Rail Planning Branch Manager Sandra Stepney and Rail Director Paul Worley.

Cheryl Hannah, Transportation Planner, retired on June 1, 2016 after 17 years of service to the State of North Carolina. She worked as a Program Analyst at NC DEQ before moving to NCDOT's PDEA in 2005 as a Community Planner. In 2007, Cheryl joined the Rail Division. As project manager for the Federal grant application process, Cheryl applied for 40 federal transportation grants resulting in \$650 million in grants awarded to NCDOT. She established performance criteria metrics and reporting systems for passenger rail reports and served as program consultant for municipal, county and regional transportation plans. Cheryl also maintained the division's knowledge base in passenger and freight rail, intermodal and multi-modal transportation and is a graduate of the I-95 Corridor Coalition's Freight Academy.

We wish Cheryl the best in her retirement.



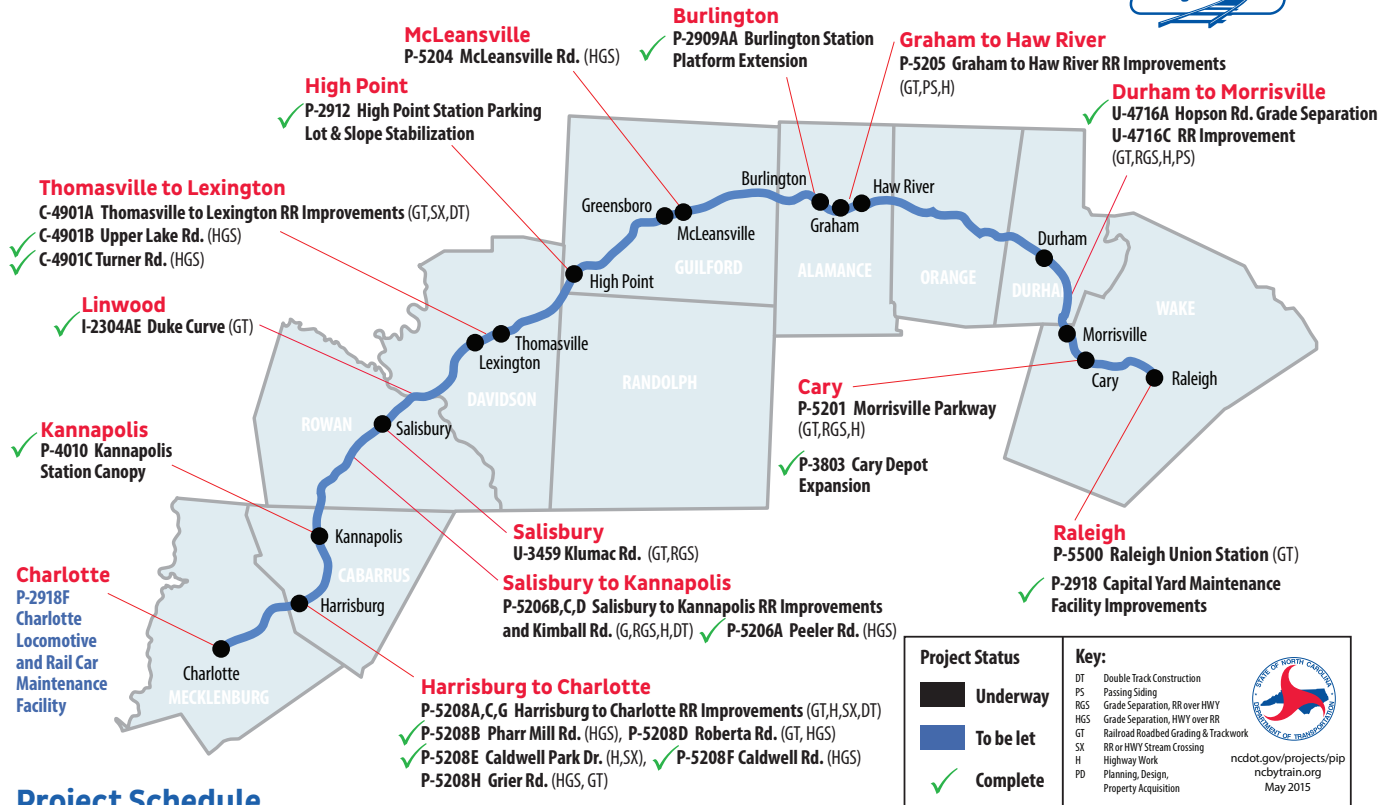
NCDOT crews who were doing maintenance on the Maiden Branch corridor came across baby turkeys that were trapped between the railroad tracks. The crew assisted in their safe passage off the tracks and into the woods to join their mother.

NCDOT Rail Division was featured in the American Planning Association's May 2016 Planning Magazine for the progress being made with Raleigh Union Station, the Piedmont Improvement Program and the Southeast Corridor. The article, titled "Great Rail Starts at the Station", details current projects and the importance of Passenger Rail Service across the country.

To read the full article visit <https://www.planning.org/planning/2016/may/trainstations/>



Piedmont Improvement Program – May 2016 Status Report



Spent to Date of \$520M (eff. 5/31/2016)

Component	Expenditure
PD&A/ROW	\$51,369,829
Equipment Procurement & Rebuild	\$30,127,015
Stations & Facilities	\$45,260,220
Track & Structures	\$273,788,966
CRISP	\$2,180,376
Program Totals	\$402,726,406

Eight new contracts totaling \$382,562 were awarded in May.

Commitments to Date of \$520M (eff. 5/31/2016)

Current Commitments	\$471M
Pending Commitments	Anticipated Date \$42.7M
Charlotte Maintenance Facility Construction	6/16 \$33M
PIDS Construction	6/16 \$1.5M
PD&A	Through '16 \$8.2M
Balance	\$6.3M

PIP Milestones



Durham: On May 11, both tracks were placed in service on the Nelson-Clegg Passing Siding project, and trains can now use both the main and siding tracks. Minor punch list items remain to fully complete the project.

Raleigh: Norfolk Southern installed the first Number 20 turnouts at CP Boylan in May. Work has also begun on construction of the roadbed for the realignment of the CSX S-line between CP Boylan and CP Southern Jct.

Piedmont Improvement Program – Project Photos – May 2016



P-5500 Raleigh Union Station trackwork



P-5500 Raleigh Union Station trackwork



P-5201 Morrisville Parkway, roadway grading



U-4716 Nelson to Clegg Passing Siding, completed main and siding tracks



P-5205 Graham to Haw River Passing Siding, siding track construction



P-5204 McLeansville Road, bridge construction

Piedmont Improvement Program – Project Photos – May 2016



C-4901 Bowers to Lake, Rich Fork Creek Bridge, completed new track



C-4901 Bowers to Lake, completed detour track



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, ballast on new track construction



P-5206 Reid to North Kannapolis, track construction



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, Coddle Creek, bridge construction



P-5208 Haydock to Junker, Grier Road bridge construction